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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACCURATELY MODELING DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSORS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/713,732, filed
5 November 15, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Application no 09/096,774 filed
June 12, 1998 which claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No.
60/050,111 filed June 18, 1997. The entire teachings of the above applications are
incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 With the explosive growth of the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) market, there
has been a direct increase in the use of fixed-point digital signal processors in a variety
of industries, such as telecommunications, speech/audio processing, instrumentation,
military, graphics, image processing, control, automotive, robotics, consumer
electronics and medical technology. In general, fixed-point DSP's compared to floating-
15 point DSP's are less expensive, use less power and less space. One advantage of a
floating-point DSP is a smaller development cost (i.e., man hours), however, this is with
the compromise of a greater production cost. Thus, if possible, companies are using and
will use fixed-point DSP's for their products. In the near future, engineers (users) will
be faced with the challenge of real-time implementations of complex DSP algorithms
20 (i.e., functions or operations) on fixed-point DSP's.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is the outcome of Applicants' desire to decrease the development time of fixed-point implementations.

The invention method enables the following development cycle model for the
5 real-time implementation of a given operation/function on a fixed-point DSP:

- 1) floating-point model
- 2) fixed-point model
- 3) real-time implementation.

The development time is drastically reduced using the invention method with the
10 above development model or one similar thereto. By decreasing development time, Applicants have narrowed the advantage gap between floating-point DSP's and fixed-point DSP's.

Besides being able to model a fixed-point DSP in a C++ environment, a supporting library (or more generally, working vector space) expedites the conversion of
15 an operation (or function) from a floating-point model to a given fixed-point processor model; from step 1 to step 2 in the above development model. In a preferred floating-point model, the invention defines a C++ class, say, for example, "FLOAT". The invention attaches various data members to the defined class (e.g., FLOAT) to keep track of pertinent information for transforming a floating-point model to a fixed-point
20 model. Moreover, suppose the floating-point model of an operation/function calls N modules, then one needs a fixed-point model for each of the N modules under each fixed-point processor to be modeled.

The present invention supports situations when one wants to convert only certain modules to a fixed-point processor model while leaving other modules as a floating-
25 point model, such as a fixed-point encoder and a floating-point decoder. In order to accomplish the dual existence of a fixed- and floating-point model, the invention method creates a C++ interface class, to do exactly that, interface a fixed-point module with a floating-point module. In terms of linear algebra, the interface class acts as a

transformation operator, transforming from the invention fixed-point model space to a floating-point model space of the present invention.

Thus, the present invention provides a computer method and apparatus for modeling a digital signal processor. In particular, the present invention employs a high level computing language for representing operation of the target processor. Further, the invention provides representations that are bit-wise matchable to machine language output of the target digital processor. The invention representations being bit-wise matchable and in the high level language enables users to directly read and match model executed steps to actual operation steps of the target digital processor.

10 In the preferred embodiment, the present invention computer system and method models a digital processor by:

(a) providing data representations and operations of a target processor (such as in a library or other source); and

(b) using a high level programming language, modeling the data representations and operations of the target processor in a manner such that model generated data is bit-wise matchable to data generated by the target processor, and in human readable terms instead of machine code.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, the step of modeling is incremental such that a first set of certain data representations and operations of the target processor is modeled using the high level programming language to form an intermediate model of the target processor. Subsequent to the formation of the intermediate model, at least a second set of data representations and operations of the target processor is modeled using the high level programming language to increment the intermediate model toward a final desired model of the target processor, and so forth with each further subsequent set of data representations and operations.

25 In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the target processor data representations and operations are preferably provided in a hierarchy or power class. As such, the library or source of the target processor data representations and operations is formed by the steps of:

for a given source processor, (a) determining each distinct fixed bit length data representation, and (b) grouping the determined distinct data representation to form a set;

5 for each target processor, repeating steps (a) and (b) such that respective sets are formed; and

forming a hierarchy of the formed sets by correlating one set to another, such that a base class with depending subclasses are generated and form the hierarchy, each set being defined by one of the base class and a subclass.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of class hierarchy for a supporting library to model example processors A, B and C in the present invention.

Figure 2 is an illustration of a pure float model example of an operation of one of the processors in Figure 1, using the present invention.

15 Figures 3 and 4 illustrate a mixed fixed-point and floating-point model including the processor operation of Figure 2 using the present invention.

Figure 5 illustrates the fixed-point model of the Figure 2 processor operation using the present invention.

Figures 6 and 7 are schematic diagrams illustrating the layout of accumulators A and B, respectively, for processor TMS320C54x.

20 Figure 8 is a schematic diagram illustrating layout of I40 class data members in the present invention.

Figure 9 is a schematic diagram of class hierarchy for a working vector space to model example processors A, B and C in the general example of the present invention.

25 Figure 10 is a block diagram of an overview of the present invention method and apparatus.

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description of preferred embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like reference

characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A description of preferred embodiments of the invention follows.

The below discussion is organized as follows. Section I presents an overview of the present invention method and apparatus for modeling digital signal processors. In Section II, Applicants discuss the creation of a working vector space (e.g., supporting
10 library) of the present invention modeling apparatus and method. Also within Section II, Applicants further explain the invention method by showing examples in modeling the TMS320C54x processor. Within Section III, Applicants explain the transformation from an abstract working vector space to the realization of a supporting library. Applicants introduce a floating-point model vector space in Section IV and discuss the
15 present invention transformation from a floating-point model to a fixed-point model. A conclusion is in Section V.

I. OVERVIEW

Referring to Figure 10, the present invention modeling method and apparatus defines operations 29 (such as addition, multiplication, subtraction, division, shifting,
20 AND, OR, and exclusive OR, and the like) for a target processor 19. The target processor 19 may be a fixed-point processor, a floating-point processor or the like, supporting 32-bit or 16-bit or similar data lengths. The present invention also defines data types 27 of the operands for the defined operations. Using these operation and data type definitions 27,29, the present invention models or represents execution of an
25 original program (or set of digital processing code) 25 written for an initial processor 11.

For example, in a conventional DSP floating-point processor (original processor 11 of Figure 10), the 32-bit 2's complement addition has a saturation threshold. That is,

the resulting sum will not be reflected to exceed the saturation threshold even though the actual mathematical sum should be a number greater than the threshold. In the case of the actual sum exceeding the saturation threshold, the floating-point processor merely produces a number at the saturation threshold. The present invention models and
5 reproduces such a 2's complement addition operation (with a saturation threshold) in the target fixed-point processor model 15 (Figure 10), even though the target processor's 2's complement addition operation normally does not follow saturation arithmetic.

In another example, say that a modem, for receiving digital input and transforming the input into a waveform output, is given. Also, say the transformation
10 procedure is originally written in floating-point C (code 25 of Figure 10). The present invention enables the transformation procedure to be represented for execution by a fixed-point target processor 19. In the preferred embodiment, the present invention step-wise models 13 or rewrites the subject procedure from the original floating-point C representation 25, to one or more intermediate (mixed floating point and fixed point)
15 representations 33, to a final fixed-point representation 35.

To accomplish the foregoing, the present invention utilizes a collection or library
17 of definitions for various target processors 19. Specifically, the library 17 contains definitions of (a) data types 27 and (b) for each data type, associated operators 29. Further, the library 17 contains definitions which enable functions (operations) of one
20 model to be mixed and matched with functions of another model, to support the above-mentioned step-wise modeling 13 to a desired target processor 19. The preferred embodiment of the present invention library 17 includes diagnostic operations 31 to indicate, for example, the number of times a certain operation occurred, whether a variable exceeded a threshold, and the like. Details of the supporting library 17 of the
25 present invention are discussed below.

Further, the present invention provides the above-described modeling in a manner that is bit-wise matchable (illustrated at 37 in Figure 10) against the original processor 11 and in human readable terms. In the preferred embodiment, a high level programming language (e.g., C, C++ and the like) is employed by the present invention

to represent or model the target processor 19. The high level language, together with the model being bit-wise matchable to the original processor 11, further enhances the step-wise modeling 13 ability of the preferred embodiment, as illustrated and further detailed below.

5 II. WORKING VECTOR/SPACE SUPPORTING LIBRARY 17

A. Distinct Fixed Length Data Representation

All fixed-point DSP's have associated with them a set of fixed bit length data representations for the storage and manipulation of binary information. A fixed bit length data representation is considered distinct if any of the following three conditions
10 are met: 1) the length is different; 2) if the length is the same and an operation exists which will produce a different result given the same input value(s) of identical length and under the same control conditions; 3) if the length is the same and an operation exists which cannot be performed on a data representation of the same length. The term
15 like.

The reasoning for condition 1 is as follows. An L_1 bit length cannot exactly represent an L_2 bit length, unless $L_1 = L_2$. Suppose $L_1 = 16$ and $L_2 = 32$, one cannot use 16 bits to represent 32 bits. One might say, one may use 32 bits to represent 16 bits. For example, the lower 16 bits of a 32-bit representation may be used to
20 simulate a 16-bit representation. From one point of view, the 16-bit simulation is not the same as the actual 16-bit representation for purposes of bit exact similarities. That is, the 16-bit simulation really is 16 zeros followed by 16 binary digits, as compared to just 16 binary digits.

Condition 2 exists when $L_1 = L_2$ and at least one operation will produce
25 different results with the same identical inputs. For example, a fixed-point DSP may have more than one accumulator and depending on which accumulator is an input and/or an output, an operation produces different results.

Condition 3 exists when $L1=L2$ and an operation cannot be performed on all representations of the same length, just some. Again, using the multi-accumulator example, at least one operation exists that will not accept all accumulators as an input. For example, on the TMS320C54x processor there are instructions which will produce
 5 different results depending on whether the source (input) or destination (output) accumulator is A or B, even if the input value and the control conditions are the same. And, as is for most processors, certain registers which are 16 bits in length cannot be operated on as a 16-bit short data memory operand can.

After identifying all distinct fixed-bit length data representations of a
 10 given processor, the present invention groups the different fixed bit length data representations into a set. The set of fixed bit length representations, for a given fixed-point DSP, is referred to herein as the length set vector, $\Lambda = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_M\}$ where each λ_i , for $i=\{1,2,\dots,M\}$, is a non-zero positive integer equal to the length (in bits) of the distinct representation. Thus, M is the total number of distinct representations of information
 15 possible on a given fixed-point processor. For example, on the TMS320C54x, the length set vector is equal to $\Lambda_{C54X} = \{40, 40, 32, 16, 16\}$. Thus, the TMS320C54x has five distinct data representations; two being 40 bits in length, one 32 bits in length, and the other two, 16 bits in length. The two 40-bit lengths, 32-bit length and two 16-bit lengths are due to the existence of 40-bit accumulator A, 40-bit accumulator B, the
 20 ability to address 32-bit operands, 16-bit registers and the ability to address 16-bit operands, respectively.

B. Operator Projection

For ease of explanation and purposes of illustrating the present invention, the following discusses two examples -- a C++ implementation and a generalized
 25 implementation of the present invention. These are for purposes of illustrating and not limiting the scope of the present invention.

1. C++ Class Hierarchy

As stated earlier, each distinct fixed bit length data representation has an associated C++ class. Thus, each λ_i has an associated C++ class which, if possible, is derived from another class for the same bit length. The actual procedure for
 5 deciding which, if any, class a given distinct fixed bit length representation is derived from is described below in part 2 of this section. As will be understood from part 2, the present invention uses the projection theorem by representing each distinct fixed bit length data representation as a vector space.

The base class may be an abstract class, which allows pure virtual
 10 function declarations or, the base class may define a virtual standard set of operation definitions to be performed on the use of a base class object. The former choice is good in applications where the end-user must choose which DSP fixed-point processor to model since objects of an abstract class cannot be created, while the latter is used in situations where no specific processor is modeled but the standard DSP processor is
 15 determined by the library creator. That is, objects of the standard class are allowed. The concept of the base class becomes more clear as Applicants explain the power (or hierarchy) structure of class inheritance as illustrated in Figure 1.

Suppose one wants to create a library to model DSP fixed-point processors A, B and C. Assume that the length set vectors for DSP processors A, B and
 20 C are

$$\Lambda_A = [40, 40, 32, 16, 16], \quad M=5 \quad (1)$$

$$\Lambda_B = [64, 40, 32, 16, 16], \quad M=5 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{and } \Lambda_C = [64, 40, 32, 32, 16, 16], \quad M=6 \quad (3)$$

respectively.

25 For sake of brevity, the following discusses the details of creating only the class for the 64-bit length data representation of the DSP fixed-point processor B needed to create the supporting library 17. It is understood that the same procedure is applied to the other bit-length data representations. Furthermore, for discussion purposes assume that a base 64-bit base class 39b, called I64 in Figure 1, with virtual

operator definitions has already been created. Thus, one needs to create a class, say I64_B, for the 64-bit length data representation 27b of fixed-point processor B.

The operators 29b (i.e., instructions) to be defined in the I64_B class are grouped into two categories, (a) operators already defined in the I64 base class 39b and
 5 (b) operators not defined in the I64 base class 39b. Think of the category (a) operators as the projection of the I64_B operators onto the I64 operators. Of course, if the projection was the empty set then I64_B will not be derived from I64. Furthermore, the base class 39b should not have any operators for which the I64_B class should not implement. Analogous to linear algebra, the previous statement implies that category
 10 (a) accompanies all of class I64, the base class 39b, such that I64_B is the direct sum of I64 plus category (b) operators. That is,

$$I64_B = I64 \oplus \text{category (b)}. \quad (4)$$

For the present example case, assume that the projection was not the empty set and that all I64 operators are to exist in the I64_B class, such that I64_B is derived from I64.

15 The invention method divides I64_B operators 29b into two orthogonal sets of operators. The first set is accomplished by taking the operator projection of I64 onto I64_B. As referred to herein, the operator projection of class α onto class β is indicated as $O\langle\alpha,\beta\rangle$. The other set is the rest of the I64_B instructions (operators and operations) which need to be initially defined for the implementation of an I64_B
 20 object. Therefore, the invention method decomposes the I64_B class into the following:

$$I64_B = O\langle I64, I64_B \rangle \oplus (I64 \perp I64_B) \quad (5)$$

The last term, $(I64 \perp I64_B)$, is the set of operators which need to be added to the I64_B class, referred to in equation (4) as "category (b)" operators.

The same methodology is applied to the creation of the rest of the classes
 25 (27a,29a...27c,29c) until all 16 classes (the total number of classes for processors A, B and C) are created, as illustrated in Figure 1. Once the invention method has these 16 classes, the supporting library 17 for modeling DSP fixed-point processors A, B and C in a C++ environment is provided. One possible power structure of the class hierarchy

for a library 17 to model fixed-point processor A, B and C is shown in Figure 1. Others are suitable.

Shown in Figure 1 is the hierarchy structure with (a) two 16-bit length standard base classes 39d, 39e, i.e., I16 to mimic 16-bit length data operands and R16 to mimic 16-bit length registers, (b) one 32-bit length standard class 39c to mimic 32-bit length data operands, (c) one 40-bit length standard class 39a, and (d) one 64-bit length standard class 39b. The respective classes under each base class 39a-39e are defined with the data types 27 and operation definitions 29 of the respective corresponding processor A, B, C. As such, the hierarchy structure of Figure 1 graphically illustrates the contents and relationship/derivation of the contents of supporting library 17.

EXAMPLES OF THE TMS320C54x SUPPORTING LIBRARY

The length set vector for the TMS320C54X, $\Lambda_{C54x} = (40, 40, 32, 16, 16)$, contains five (5) elements. Referring to the accumulators (generally at 23 in Figure 10), the TMS320C54x has two accumulators, referred to as accumulator A and accumulator B, each with a 40-bit length. Each accumulator 23 contains three memory-mapped registers: Guard bits (AG, BG), High-order bits, (AH, BH), and Low-order bits, (AL, BL). As shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7, the layouts for the accumulators 23 are the guard bits which are 8 bits in length, while the high-order and low-order bits are 16 bits in length, bringing the total length to 40 bits.

The present invention TMS320C54x I40A/B class is used to declare and define operators and functions which utilize the TMS320C54x accumulator A or B. In other words, if one were to use an assembly instruction equivalent (equivalence with respect to an operator or function in the C++ model), the final result (at 23 in Figure 10) bit matches with the C++ model result 21. Moreover, in the C++ model, one is able to explicitly state whether a 40-bit variable resides in accumulator A or accumulator B, by creating two separate classes.

The present invention simulation is accomplished by using a 32-bit integer and an 8-bit unsigned character in tandem as the data members for the I40 structure, shown

in Figure 8 as part of 21 (Figure 10). The 32-bit integer is called guardhi, while the 8-bit character is called low. As shown in the layout in Figure 8, guardhi contains the 32 MSB's (most significant bits) of the accumulator 23 and low contains the remaining 8 LSB's (least significant bits). In other words, guardhi contains the guard bits, high-order
 5 bits, and 8 MSB's of the low-order bits, and low incorporates just the 8 LSB's of the low-order bits.

As a reminder, the I40 layout, in Figure 8, does not use accumulator specific notation (e.g., AH versus H), since the I40 structure is accumulator independent. That is, the I40 class is a base class for the two accumulators. Simply stated, the ability to do
 10 40-bit manipulation and operations is accomplished by telling guardhi and low what to do for each operator and function defined within this structure 21.

2. Vector Space Hierarchy

In this second example of the present invention, a hypothetically simplified fixed-point DSP, processor C, is to be modeled with an associated length set
 15 vector, $\Lambda_{C54x} = \{40, 32, 16, 16\}$. Furthermore, the hypothetical assumes that the invention method has already generated the working vector sub-space for the two simplified fixed-point DSP's, processor A and B, with associated length set vectors, $\Lambda_A = \{64, 40, 32, 16, 16\}$ and $\Lambda_B = \{40, 32, 16, 16\}$, respectively.

After determining the length set vector for the fixed-point DSP to
 20 be modeled, the invention method proceeds to the operator projection procedure as mentioned above. The object (goal) of the operator projection is to determine the projection of a fixed bit length data representation for the processor to be modeled, processor C, onto the data representations of equal length associated with processors already modeled, processors A and B. The projection is with respect to the input/output
 25 relation for all instances over all operators. What is meant by an instance of an operator is an allowed syntax. For example, if an ADD operator is able to take as its inputs either two 40-bit representations or two 32-bit representations with both cases producing a 40-bit output, then there are two instances of the ADD operator.

One may think of each instance as a vector with each input and output representation as an element. For consistency, the present invention method assumes that multi-output and multi-input operators exist, with the ordering of the instance vector being multi-output representations followed by the multi-input representations. Suppose an instance has M outputs and N inputs, then the instance vector is $[\text{output}_1, \text{output}_2, \dots, \text{output}_M, \text{input}_1, \text{input}_2, \dots, \text{input}_N]$. For example, the instance vectors for the ADD operator example are $[40 \ 40 \ 40]$ and $[40 \ 32 \ 32]$. It is noted that the present invention method purposely makes a distinction between inputs and outputs, since for certain operators under specific processors, all inputs and outputs do not use the same distinct representations. For example, a 40-bit length may be allowed as the first input but not as the second input argument.

The invention method uses the operator projection to determine if processor C is more similar to processor A or to processor B. The invention method performs the operator projection between processor C and A, as well as, processor C and B, for each fixed bit length data representation of processor C, (i.e., each λ_i of Λ_C). Furthermore, there is a degree of freedom which is termed the "pivot point", in performing the operator projection, as to where in the instance vector the given λ_i is. Assuming $\lambda_i = 40$, the present invention method may choose to perform the operator projection between the different operator instances with a specific 40-bit output or 40-bit input. Applicants have found that using the first input as a pivot point fits in well when the present invention translates the working vector space to a supporting library in the preferred C++ embodiment.

Next the present invention determines the operator projection for the 40-bit data representation of processor C, I40C as follows. All operators associated with a given processor have an indicator matrix. The indicator matrix is used to represent the valid input and output relationship for a given operator under said fixed-point DSP. For example, assume processor C's add operator has the following input/output pattern in the form $\text{OUT1} = \text{IN1} + \text{IN2}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
I40C &= I40C + I40C; & I40C &= I40C + I32C \\
I40C &= I40C + I16C; & I40C &= I32C + I40C \\
I40C &= I32C + I32C; & I40C &= I32C + I16C
\end{aligned}$$

The indicator matrix for processor C's add operator, M_{C_Add} is shown in (1). Each row of an indicator

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
& & 1000|1000|1000 & & \\
& & 1000|1000|0100 & & \\
M_{C_Add} & & 1000|1000|0010 & & (1) \\
& & 1000|0100|1000 & & \\
10 & & 1000|0100|0100 & & \\
& & 1000|0100|0010 & &
\end{array}$$

matrix represents an instance of the associated operator. That is, an instance vector defined earlier. For processor C's add operator, the instance vector's first element indicates the output type. The second element indicates the first input argument type, and the third element indicates the second input argument type. Furthermore, each element of the 6 x 3 indicator matrix has been represented as a binary digit. The order of indication of argument type for each element, going from most significant bit to least significant bit is I40C, I32C, I16C and R16C. Hence, the name "indicator matrix" is indicative of the generated matrix. In general, the number of elements in a row is equal to the number of outputs plus the number of inputs for a given operator. The element value corresponds to 2^{M-i} , where i indicates the index, λ_i , for the data representation.

Suppose the indicator matrix for processor A's add operator, M_{A_Add} , is as shown in (2).

$$\begin{aligned}
 &10000|10000|10000 \\
 &10000|10000|01000 \\
 M_{A_Add} = &01000|01000|01000 \quad (2) \\
 &01000|01000|00100 \\
 5 \quad &01000|00100|01000 \\
 &01000|00100|00100
 \end{aligned}$$

The 64-bit, 40-bit, 32-bit, 16-bit length data representations of processor A are referred to as I64A, I40A, I32A and I16A or R16A, respectively, with R16A referring to the registers. Thus, each element may take on one of M=5 values, {10000, 01000, 00100, 10 00010, 00001}, to indicate the output/input types as an I64A, I40A, I32A, I16A or R16A, respectively. The indicator matrix for processor B's add operator M_{B_Add} is shown in (3). The 40-bit, 32-bit and 16-bit length data representations of processor B are referred to as I40B, I32B, and I16B, respectively, with R16B referring to the registers. Thus, each element may take on one of M=4 values, {1000, 0100, 0010, 15 0001}, to indicate the output/input types as an I40B, I32B, I16B or R16B, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1000|1000|1000 \\
 M_{B_Add} = &1000|0100|1000 \quad (3) \\
 &1000|0100|0100 \\
 &1000|0100|0010
 \end{aligned}$$

20 Now to proceed with the operator projection of I40C onto I40B and I40C onto I40A. The present invention next determines the error vector $E_{I40C/A}$, in the operator domain, between I40C and I40A. The mathematical representation for the error vector between I40C and I40A is shown in (4). While, the error vector between I40C and I40B, $E_{I40C/B}$, is represented in (5).

$$25 \quad E_{I40C/A} = I40C - \langle I40C, I40A \rangle_o I40A. \quad (4)$$

$$E_{I40C/B} = I40C - \langle I40C, I40B \rangle_o I40B. \quad (5)$$

Since the indicator matrix for the operator has been shown in (1), next is shown the operator projection for the add operator. The procedure is of course repeated for all operators of processor C. First, the operator projection determines, for just the add operator, $\langle I_{40C}, I_{40A} \rangle_{I_{40A}}$. Next needed are the instances (i.e., rows) from the indicator matrix for each processor where the first input to the add operator is a 40-bit length representation.

The 40-bit length add instances for processor C, $M_{I_{40C_Add}}$, are shown in (6) while the processor A 40-bit length instances, $M_{I_{40A_Add}}$, are shown in (7).

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 & & 1000|1000|1000 \\
 10 \quad & M_{I_{40C_Add}} = & 1000|1000|0100 \quad (6) \\
 & & 1000|1000|0010
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 & & 01000|01000|01000 \\
 & M_{I_{40A_Add}} = & 01000|01000|00100 \quad (7)
 \end{array}$$

Notice that processor C has three instances with 4-bit elements, while processor A has two instances with 5-bit elements. Since the operator projection involves a bit-wise AND operation, the present invention needs to modify the instances for bit-wise compatibility. For the processor C instances, the present invention adds a 0 MSB, and for processor A adds an all-zero instance. In general, the number of instances must be the same. If need be, the present invention simply adds all-zero instances. Similarly, the number of bits must be the same. For the example case, the present invention concatenates a zero as a most significant bit. The modified instances for processor C, $M_{I_{40C_Add}}$, and processor A, $M_{I_{40A_Add}}$, are shown in equations (8) and (9), respectively.

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 & & 01000|01000|01000 \\
 & M_{I_{40C_Add}} = & 01000|01000|00100 \quad (8) \\
 25 \quad & & 01000|01000|00010
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & & 01000|01000|01000 \\
 M_{I_{40A_Add}} = & & 01000|01000|00100 \quad (9) \\
 & & 00000|00000|00000
 \end{array}$$

The indicator matrix, $M_{(I_{40C,I_{40A}}) \circ I_{40A}}$ for the add operator projection, shown in (10); is
 5 determined by performing a bit-wise AND between $M_{I_{40C_Add}}$ and $M_{I_{40A_Add}}$.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & & 01000|01000|01000 \\
 M_{(I_{40C,I_{40A}}) \circ I_{40A}} = & & 01000|01000|00100 \quad (10)
 \end{array}$$

Finally, the indicator matrix for the error vector $ME_{I_{40C/A}}$, shown in (11)
 is determined by an exclusive-OR operation between the indicator matrix for the add
 10 operation projection, $M_{(I_{40C,I_{40A}}) \circ I_{40A}}$, and the modified indicator matrix for the processor
 C add operator, $M_{I_{40C_Add}}$.

$$ME_{I_{40C/A}} = 10000|01000|00010 \quad (11)$$

This indicates that the instances of processor C's add operator where the first input is a
 40-bit length exist in processor A, except when the second input is a 16-bit
 15 representation.

The process is repeated for the add operator projection of processor C
 onto processor B. The resulting indicator matrix, $M_{(I_{40C,I_{40B}}) \circ I_{40B}}$, for the add operator is
 shown in (12). While the indicator matrix for the error vector $ME_{I_{40C/B}}$, is shown in (13).

$$M_{(I_{40C,I_{40B}}) \circ I_{40B}} = 1000|1000|1000 \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & & 1000|1000|0100 \\
 ME_{I_{40C/B}} = & & 1000|1000|0010 \quad (13)
 \end{array}$$

After completing the above procedure for all operators defined in C, the
 present invention performs a norm operation on the error vectors between processor C
 and processor B, as well as between processor C and processor A. One possibility is the
 25 uniform instance norm, which simply adds up the number of error instances. For
 example, the uniform instance norm for the add operator error vector, $E_{I_{40C/B}}$, between

processor C and B is 2. While for the add operator error vector $E_{I40C/A}$ between processor C and A, the uniform instance norm is 1. Based on the add operator uniform instance norm, the present invention concludes that processor A is more similar to processor C.

Alternatively, one may also define a weighted instance norm which places more weight on certain operators by multiplying the uniform instance norm of a given operator by a user-specified constant. One may also place more weight on a multi-input/multi-output operator by multiplying the uniform instance norm by the number of inputs and/or outputs for a given instance. Basically, the norm definition is another degree of freedom within the invention process.

10 III. Projection Outcomes

The simplified hypothetical example presented above shows one of five possibilities when performing an operator projection. Next shown are all possible cases in general linear algebraic terminology, with an illustration of resulting class hierarchy in Figure 9. Within the explanation of each case, the following shows how to
 15 implement the given situation in an implementation of the working vector space in the C++ environment implementation. Recall that in the supporting library 17, each fixed bit length representation 27 is represented as a C++ class.

Suppose the minimum norm for the 40-bit length representation operator projection of processor C is the operator projection of processor C onto processor B.
 20 One possibility, Applicants refer to as Case A, is the operator projection $\langle I40C, I40B \rangle_{I40B}$, equals $I40B$. However, $I40B$ does not equal $I40C$, such that the error vector is not zero. Case A implies all instances of processor B operators exist as instances of processor C operators. However, processor C contains instances of operators which do not exist in processor B. This is another way of stating $I40B$ is a
 25 sub-space of $I40C$ as depicted in (14). The second term on the right hand side is the error vector, $E_{I40C/B}$, described in the previous section.

$$I40C = \langle I40C, I40B \rangle_{I40B} I40B + (I40C \perp I40B) \quad (14a)$$

$$I40C = I40B + (I40C \perp I40B) \quad (14b)$$

For the supporting library 17, Case A means the I40C class is derived from the I40B class. At the moment, the I40C class must define the instances of operators 29 that do not exist in the I40B class. That is, the error vector, $I40C \perp I40B$. Now the present invention is ready to determine if any of the I40B operators need to be

5 overloaded (i.e., redefined) within I40C. An instance of an I40C operator overloads a derived I40B operator instance, if an instance of any I40B operator exists which produces a different output as compared to the same instance of the I40C operator.

Another possibility, referred to as Case B, is the operator projection, $\langle I40C, I40B \rangle_{I40B}$, equals I40, where I40 is a sub-space of I40B and a sub-space of

10 I40C. Thus, I40B does not equal I40C, such that the error vector is not zero. Case B implies only some of the instances of processor B operators exist as instances of processor C operators. Hence, processor C contains instances of operators which do not exist in processor B. Case B is represented mathematically in (15). The second term on the right hand side is the error vector, $E_{I40C/B}$, described in the previous section.

15
$$I40C = I40 + (I40C \perp I40B) \quad (15)$$

For the supporting library 17, Case B means the I40C class is derived from the I40B class. At the moment, the I40C class must define the instances of operators that do not exist in the I40B class. That is, the error vector, $I40C \perp I40B$. Now use the same methodology described for Case A to determine if any of the I40B operators contained

20 within the I40 space need to be overloaded (i.e., redefined) within I40C.

The next possibility, referred to as Case C, is the operator projection, $\langle I40C, I40B \rangle_{I40B}$, equals \emptyset , the empty set. Case C implies none of the instances of processor B operators exists as instances of processor C operators. In other words, I40B is completely orthogonal to I40C.

25 For the supporting library 17, Case C means the I40C class cannot be derived from the I40B class. Thus, I40C becomes a new base class. Within the I40C class, the present invention creates and defines all instances of all I40C operators.

Next, the present invention considers what is referred to as Case D, the operator projection, $\langle I40C, I40B \rangle_{I40B}$, is equal to $I40B$. Furthermore, $I40B$ equals $I40C$ which results in a zero uniform instance norm for the error vector. That is, $I40C \perp I40B$ equals the empty set. Case D implies that all instances of all processor C operators exist as

5 instances of processor B operators and vice-versa.

For the supporting library 17, Case D means the $I40C$ class is derived from the $I40B$ class. The methodology described for Case A is used to check if any of the instances of the $I40B$ operators need to be overloaded within the $I40C$ class. If none of the instances of the $I40B$ operators need to be overloaded, there is no reason to create an

10 $I40C$ class.

The last possibility, referred to as Case E, is the operator projection, $\langle I40C, I40B \rangle_{I40B}$, equals $I40C$. Furthermore, $I40C$ is a sub-space of $I40B$, which also results in a zero uniform instance norm for the error vector. Case E implies that all instances of all processor C operators exist as instances of processor B operators but not

15 vice-versa.

For the supporting library 17, Case C means that the $I40B$ class is derived from the $I40C$ class as opposed to the usual opposite scenario. That is, $I40C$ becomes the parent of $I40B$. The methodology described for Case A is used here to check if any of the instances of the $I40C$ operators need to be overloaded within the $I40B$ class.

20 The procedure is repeated for all fixed-length distinct representations of processor C in order to incorporate processor C into the supporting library 17. As stated earlier, the processor C vector sub-space is the direct sum of all of the data representation sub-spaces, $I40C$, $I32C$ and $I16C$. The processor C vector sub-space translates to a C++ class of data representation classes in the supporting library 17. The

25 processor C class is a class of classes. The existence of all processor classes forms the analogy to the working vector space. One possible power structure for a class hierarchy of the foregoing supporting library 17 is shown in Figure 9.

IV. CONVERTING A FLOATING POINT MODEL TO A FIXED POINT MODEL

Referring back to the example of Figure 1, the invention floating-point model uses C++ classes for creating instances of variables. The invention floating point data representation is implemented by a C++ class, called "FLOAT". The invention attaches various data members to the class FLOAT to keep track of pertinent information for transforming a floating-point model to a fixed-point model. In the more generalized example of Figure 9, all floating-point models of a given operation or function use a floating-point class as a data type instead of just a float or a double type. The base floating point class has the following members: data, maxabs, varabs and avgabs, all of which are of type float or double. The preferred embodiment employs the following data members:

Value = current value (variable's contents)
 Max_abs = running maximum of the absolute of Value
 Min_abs = running minimum of the absolute of Value
 Avg_abs = running average of the absolute of Value
 15 Var_abs = running variance of the absolute of Value
 Read_count= number of read accesses made of Value
 Store_count= number of write accesses made of Value.

The invention method also declares global variables to keep track of the number of times a given function is called. In the preferred embodiment, the invention method keeps track of all mathematical operations (addition, multiplication, subtraction, division). Having the foregoing information provided by the preferred embodiment on any variable declared as a FLOAT, aids in determining the computational complexity, dynamic range, scaling effects, and Q storage format.

Now turn to converting a floating-point model 11 (Figure 10) of an algorithm 25 (i.e., operation or function) to a given fixed-point processor model 15. Suppose the floating-point model 11 of the operation calls N modules, then a fixed-point model 15 is needed for each of the N modules under each processor 19 desired to be modeled.

Situations will also arise when one wants to convert certain modules to a fixed-point processor model 13 while leaving other modules as a floating-point model 11. One scenario may be a fixed-point encoder in tandem with a floating point decoder, or another scenario may be to convert only one module to a fixed-point model at a time and still be able to execute a subject operation (function) with floating point modules. Such are generally illustrated as intermediate models 13a...13n in Figure 10.

In order to accomplish the dual existence (in intermediate models 13) of a fixed-point and floating-point model, the present invention creates an interface class, to do exactly that, interface a fixed-point module with a floating point module. In one embodiment, the interface class is referred to as a "TOINT" with a public data member, called "DATA", of class type FLOAT. For sake of brevity, let $N = 2$ and say a fixed-point processor B model 15 is desired for the pure float model 11 example operation (function) 25 shown in Figure 2. In Figure 3, a fixed-point model of FUNC1 () with a floating point model of FUNC2 () is tested, while in Figure 4 the roles of the modules are reversed. Thus, Figure 3 illustrates the example operation 33a in a first intermediate model 13a, and Figure 4 illustrates an incrementally changed example operation 33b of a second or subsequent intermediate model 13b. Then, in Figure 5, both modules are shown as being fixed point modules 35 of the desired final model 15.

By taking advantage of C++ function mangling, the preferred embodiment creates three definitions of a module (i.e., same function name): floating-point definition, fixed-point definition, and interface definition. The interface definition accepts as arguments interface class objects with data members of class type FLOAT, then converts the objects to a fixed-point data representation class for the desired DSP 19, in the example C++ case a 64-bit length data representation for processor B, I64_B. Then, the interface definition calls the fixed-point definition, which returns a fixed-point class object to the interface definition. The returned fixed-point class object is converted to an interface class object upon return to the calling function of the interface definition. The key feature is that the invention easily simulates the processor operation (function) on another processor by replacing all instances of I64_B objects with a data

representation of the target processor 19. Furthermore, one is able to have assembly level characteristics in the C++ environment since the invention defines the behavior of all operations under all control conditions. For example, the add operators are able to simulate sign extension mode, overflow mode, etc.

5 V. CONCLUSION

Using the present invention approach, one creates a class structure (supporting library 17 or vector space), with an efficient class hierarchy, for accurately modeling various DSP fixed-point processors 19 (preferably in a C++ environment).

Furthermore, the supporting library 17 (vector space) is an adaptive library. Adaptive in
10 the sense that other fixed-point processors (sub-spaces) may be added in their entirety or for a current library fixed-point processor, its associated operators and their definitions 27,29 may be added, removed or modified as needed.

Once a supporting library 17 of the present invention is available for a given set of processors, any operation (function or algorithm) is able to be modeled under any
15 fixed-point processor (sub-space) of the library 17 (vector space). The multi-processor capability of the invention supporting library 17 facilitates the comparison of an operation/function under different fixed-point processors 19 without necessarily coding at assembly level.

Moreover, by using a supporting library 17 of the present invention, the
20 development time involved in going from a fixed-point model 15 to an assembly level version for a given operation (function or algorithm) is dramatically reduced. The reduction is possible since a fixed-point model 15 of the present invention has assembly level characteristics built into it.

EQUIVALENTS

25 While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that

various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

For example, the foregoing discusses modeling floating point arithmetic on a fixed point processor. This is not meant to be a limitation but rather an illustration of the
5 present invention. Other target processors and any variety of operations/functions are suitable.